

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00591

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, BE, MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE - CIVIL DEPUTY POSITION -
BIO DATA ON BELGIAN CANDIDATE

REF: USNATO 62 (REPEATED AS STATE 5871)

1. ACCORDING TO REFTTEL, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
PROPOSED JOSEPH J.V.M.E. TROUVEROY FOR THE ABOVE
POSITION. PREVIOUS BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING ON TROUVEROY
WAS: 1) MEMCON, DATED MARCH 30, 1966;
2) BRUSSELS A-465, SEPTEMBER 29, 1970; AND HE IS LISTED
ON PAGE 312 OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNUAIRE (1974
EDITION).

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION UPDATES PREVIOUS BIOGRAPHIC
REPORTING ON TROUVEROY:

AMB. TROUVEROY SERVED AS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM JANUARY 1971 UNTIL 1974 WHEN HE
RETURNED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE CURRENTLY SERVES
AS DIRECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY'S GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FOREIGN
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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. AS SUCH, HE HAS TITULAR RESPONSIBILITY
FOR COMMODITIES, GATT AND UNCTAD AMONG OTHER AREAS.
IN FACT, HE HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME OVER THE PAST
YEAR ON THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AND ONLY CERTAIN UNCTAD
CONCERNS (MAINLY THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ISSUE).
ALTHOUGH HE SOMETIMES ATTENDS AS BELGIUM'S DELEGATE
TO THE HIGH-LEVEL "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL

SESSION" (XCSS) OF THE OECD ON NORTH-SOUTH MATTERS, TROUVEROY CLEARLY WAS FORCED TO TAKE SECOND PLACE ON NORTH-SOUTH WITHIN THE BELGIAN BUREAUCRACY TO A DAVIGNON PROTEGE, AMB. PAUL DENIS.

TROUVEROY IS A GOOD-LOOKING, FRIENDLY MAN. HIS TIME AS CONSUL GENERAL IN CHICAGO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A HIGH POINT FOR HIM PERSONALLY - HE ENJOYS BOASTING ABOUT HIS REGULAR TENNIS MATCHES WITH THEN GOVERNOR SERGEANT SHRIVER. HE HAS A SON WHO WAS BORN THERE, WHO HAS RETAINED HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND CURRENTLY RESIDES IN THE U.S. PERHAPS PARTLY THANKS TO THIS EXPERIENCE, HE APPEARS TO HAVE A PARTICULAR FONDNESS FOR AMERICANS. HE IS FRANCOPHONE, HAS RELATIVELY LITTLE DUTCH AND SPEAKS FLUENT, IF SOMEWHAT ERRATIC ENGLISH. HIS WIFE IS ATTRACTIVE AND SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

DESPITE THESE QUALITIES AND HIS LONG EXPERIENCE, TROUVEROY HAS IMPRESSED US AS SOMEWHAT OF A LIGHTWEIGHT. HE APPEARS OFTEN TO BE UNACQUAINTED WITH THE ISSUES AND HAS NOT PROVEN TO BE A PARTICULARLY INFORMATIVE OR AUTHORITATIVE INTERLOCUTOR. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS IN RECENT MONTHS, HE HAS EXPRESSED A CERTAIN DEFENSIVENESS ABOUT HIS STATUS IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL, WHICH MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN WHY HE HAS NOW BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE

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POST. CHAMBERS

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